	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/896,521	EL-GEBALY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jude J. Jean-Gilles	2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *05/21/2007*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-4,7-15,17-22 and 24-29*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *08/02/2007* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Edmund P. Pfleger, Reg. No. 41,252 on 02 August 2007. The proposed

amendment to the claims as suggested by the examiner, and faxed by STEVE FORD to

the Examiner on 17 August 2007 is presented below.

IN THE CLAIMS

2.   Independent Claims 1, 12, 21, and 25 have all been amended to include the

specific step of : "initiating a connection from the requesting endpoint to at least a third

endpoint, the requesting endpoint identifying to the third endpoint the one or more other

participating endpoints participating in the conference with the requesting endpoint,

wherein initiating said connection comprises sending an H.323 setup request message

that includes an identity of the one or more other participating endpoints in a non-

standard parameter field of the H.323 message". Claims 5, 6, 116, 23, and 30-40 have

been cancelled. No new subject matter has been added. Reconsideration is submitted

below.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A method for setting up a distributed multipoint conference among three or more endpoints without requiring centralized control either for signaling or for mixing media streams, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a plurality of endpoints, including at least a requesting endpoint and one or more other participating endpoints participating in a conference with the requesting endpoint;

initiating a connection from the requesting endpoint to at least a third endpoint, the requesting endpoint identifying to the third endpoint the one or more other participating endpoints participating in the conference with the requesting endpoint, wherein initiating said connection comprises sending an H.323 setup request message that includes an identity of the one or more other participating endpoints in a non-standard parameter field of the H.323 message; and

the third endpoint directly establishing a connection between itself and the one or more other participating endpoints identified by the requesting endpoint, the third endpoint identifying the requesting endpoint to the one or more other participating endpoints.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the connections between endpoints comprise connections that support unicast streams.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising at each of the endpoints, mixing streams received from each of the other endpoints to form a logical conference.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, in response to the initiation of the connection from the requesting endpoint, establishing a connection from the third endpoint to the requesting endpoint.

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 in which establishing the connection between the third endpoint and the one or more other participating endpoints comprises sending an H.323 setup request message that includes an identity of the requesting endpoint.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7 in which sending the H.323 setup request message comprises formatting the H.323 setup request message to include the identity of the requesting endpoint in a non-standard parameter field of the H.323 message.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 in which initiating a connection comprises using a Fast Connect procedure.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the initiating and establishing are repeated to form an N-way conference, where N is an integer greater than three.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 in which initiating a connection to a third endpoint is performed in response to input received from a user of an Internet Protocol telephony application.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating a multipoint conference among three or more endpoints, the method comprising:
        receiving from a requesting endpoint information comprising an invitation to establish a connection with the requesting endpoint, the invitation identifying one or more other participating endpoints participating in a conference with the requesting endpoint; and
        directly sending to each of the other participating endpoints identified by the requesting endpoint an invitation to establish a connection and information identifying the requesting endpoint, wherein sending said invitation to each of the other participating endpoints identified by the requesting endpoint comprises sending an

H.323 setup request message that identifies the requesting endpoint in a nonstandard parameter field.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising, in response to receiving an invitation from the requesting endpoint, establishing a connection with the requesting endpoint.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13 in which establishing the connection with the requesting endpoint is order independent from sending invitations to each of the other participating endpoints identified by the requesting endpoint.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 12 in which receiving an invitation from the requesting endpoint comprises receiving an H.323 setup request message that identifies the one or more other participating endpoints in a non-standard parameter field.

16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising, in response to sending invitations to the other participating endpoints, receiving from each of the other participating endpoints information establishing a connection.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising mixing a plurality of unicast streams received from the inviting and other participating endpoints to form a logical conference.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18 in which the plurality of unicast streams include voice data or video data or both.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 12 in which the receiving and sending are performed by an Internet Protocol telephony application.

21.   (Currently Amended) A machine-accessible medium including instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to:

directly receive from an requesting endpoint information comprising an invitation to establish a connection with the requesting endpoint and identifying one or more other endpoints participating in a conference with the requesting endpoint;

directly establish a connection with the requesting endpoint;

directly send to each of the other endpoints identified by the requesting endpoint an invitation to establish a connection and information identifying the requesting endpoint, wherein said invitation comprises instructions to send an H.323 setup request message that identifies the requesting endpoint in a non-standard parameter field;

directly receive from each of the other endpoints information establishing a connection; and

mix a plurality of unicast streams received from the inviting and other endpoints to form a logical conference.

22.   (Previously Presented) The machine accessible medium of claim 21 in which the instructions to cause the computer system to receive an invitation from the requesting endpoint comprise instructions to receive an H.323 setup request message that identifies the one or more other endpoints in a non-standard parameter field.

23.   (Cancelled)

24.   (Previously Presented) The machine accessible medium of claim 21 in which the instructions are performed by an Internet Protocol telephony application.

25.   (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a user interface configured to receive from a user of the application input identifying one or more endpoints to be called to form a conference and to present a plurality of media streams to the user in a format that suggests inter-relatedness of the streams; and

H.323 protocol support for performing the following Internet Protocol (IP) telephony operations:

(i)   directly receive from an requesting endpoint information comprising an invitation to establish a connection with the requesting endpoint and identifying one or more other endpoints participating in a conference with the requesting endpoint;

(ii)   directly establish a connection with the requesting endpoint;

(iii)   directly send to each of the other endpoints identified by the requesting endpoint an invitation to establish a connection and information identifying the requesting endpoint, wherein said invitation comprises instructions to send an H.323 setup request message that identifies the requesting endpoint in a non-standard parameter field;

(iv)   directly receive from each of the other endpoints information establishing a connection; and

(v)   mix a plurality of unicast streams received from the inviting and other endpoints to form a logical conference.

26.   (Previously Presented) The application of claim 25 wherein the application comprises a client configured to be executed on a computer system associated with the user, the client configured to communicate with a remote server application to provide the user with IP telephony functionality.

27.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25 wherein, if two or more of the unicast streams comprise audio information, the user interface is configured to overlay the audio streams to suggest inter-relatedness.

28.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25 wherein, if two or more of the unicast streams comprise video information, the user interface is configured to display the video streams in adjacent display regions to suggest inter-relatedness.

29.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25 in which the H.323 protocol support for receiving an invitation from the requesting endpoint comprises support to receive an H.323 setup request message that identifies the one or more other endpoints in a non-standard parameter field.

30.   (Cancelled)

31 - 40.   (Cancelled)

Reasons for Allowance

3.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record (*Pirich, US Patent 6,424,994*) does not teach nor suggest in detail a method for setting up a distributed multipoint conference among three or more endpoints without requiring centralized control either for signaling or for mixing media streams, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a plurality of endpoints, including at least a requesting endpoint and one or more other participating endpoints participating in a conference with the requesting endpoint;

initiating a connection from the requesting endpoint to at least a third endpoint,

the requesting endpoint identifying to the third endpoint the one or more other

participating endpoints participating in the conference with the requesting endpoint,

wherein initiating said connection comprises sending an H.323 setup request message

that includes an identity of the one or more other participating endpoints in a non-

standard parameter field of the H.323 message; and

the third endpoint directly establishing a connection between itself and the one or more

other participating endpoints identified by the requesting endpoint, the third endpoint

identifying the requesting endpoint to the one or more other participating endpoints.

4.   The dependent claims further limit the independent claims and are considered

allowable on the same basis as the independent claims as well as for the further

limitations set forth.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany

the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "**Comments on Statement

of Reasons for Allowance.**"

5.   **Claims *1-4,7-15,17-22 and 24-29* are allowed.** Renumbered 1-29.

Conclusion

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jude Jean-Gilles whose telephone number is (571) 272-3914. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM daily.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).
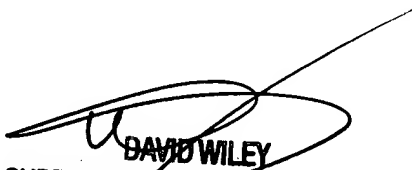

Jude Jean-Gilles

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2143

JJG

August 17, 2007

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